

MAR 1952

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, crops, mechanization
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily, semiweekly, thrice-weekly newspapers
 WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow
 DATE PUBLISHED 1 - 9 Apr 1953
 LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953

DATE DIST. 25 Jul 1953

NO. OF PAGES 6

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
 OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
 LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
 PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 1 - 9 APRIL 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet news-
 papers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in nine of the
 union republics. Progress and statistical data are given on the
 following: crops, mechanization, fertilization, land improvement,
 rural electrification, and labor and organization.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

The 1953 state plan for the development of agriculture in the USSR pro-
 vides for a further increase in agricultural productivity and for increases
 in grain production, products of animal husbandry, cotton, sugar beets, flax
 fiber, vegetables, fruits, and other crops. A characteristic feature of the
 plan is the necessity of boosting productivity in order to produce increases
 in all agricultural products.

Preparation for field work is still hampered by serious shortcomings.
 A number of MTS and sovkhozes have failed to complete tractor and trailing
 implement repairs. The quality of repair in many cases is low and does not
 prove reliable under conditions of constant operation when field work is in
 progress.

Field work in the southern regions of the USSR is now in full swing.
 The early days of sowing reveal serious shortcomings and mistakes. A mis-
 take made by supervisors of some kolkhozes and MTS is that of following anti-
 quated tradition, concerned only with rapidly completing the sowing of spiked
 grain crops, and forgetting other crops which must be sown early and those
 which are important in the national economy, such as sunflowers, perennial
 grasses, fodder root crops, and others.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB									
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI									

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Now that the grain problem in the USSR has been successfully solved, the progress of grain crops should not be considered the only criterion of agricultural progress. Concern must be shown for developing a varied agriculture, producing high yields in all crops, and further increasing animal husbandry. A considerable expansion is necessary in the areas sown to annual and perennial grasses, and to ensilage crops and fodder root crops; the yield should also be increased in present fodder areas.(1)

The 1953 plan for sowing perennial and annual grasses, and ensilage and other fodder crops has been increased considerably in the USSR over 1952 27.(2)

From 1946 to 1952, MTS and sovkhozes of the USSR were supplied with 804,000 tractors in terms of 15, horsepower units.

A great many specialists with higher educations are employed in MTS, kol-khozes, and sovkhozes. Whereas before the war mechanical engineers with higher educations were rare in MTS, there are now thousands of them in MTS of Moskovskaya Oblast, where 99 percent of the chief engineers have higher educations.

An analysis of MTS operations during the past year reveals an average daily output which is still low. The second half of field work is the most productive; at this time, output per 15-horsepower tractor averages 6-7 hectares of work per 24-hour period. Tractor productivity during the first part of spring is often 3-4 hectares per 24-hour period. In 1953, a number of MTS in Krasnodarskiy and Stavropol'skiy krais during the first 5 days of wide-scale sowing averaged no more than 4 hectares of work per 15-horsepower tractor.

A serious shortcoming in the work of MTS is attributed to the idle time spent by tractors which are inoperative because of mechanical defects or poor work organization. In 1952, such inoperative periods made up 15 to 20 percent of the working time spent in spring sowing in many MTS of Saratovskaya and Kuybyshevskaya oblasts and in Altayskiy Kray, while in Orlovskaya Oblast idle time reached 30 percent of the time spent in spring sowing.(3)

Data relevant to 1953 graduates of the Moscow Order of Lenin Agricultural Academy imeni K. A. Timiryazev follows:

<u>Number and Type of Specialists</u>		<u>Positions to Be Filled</u>	
Field agronomists	124	Chief and sectional of MTS agronomists	216
Selection and seed-growing specialists	57	Plant protection agronomists in MTS and rayon agricultural divisions	50
Agronomists specializing in irrigation farming	41	Promiculture and olericulture agronomists in MTS and rayon agricultural divisions	55
Agronomists specializing in plant protection	50	Seed-culture agronomists in rayon seed farms, variety developing sectors, and selection stations	47
Agricultural soil chemists	79	Directors of MTS agrotechnical laboratories	63
Agronomists specializing in horticulture	82	Pedoloaists	15
Specialists in northern viticulture	6	Zootechnicians	120
Agricultural economists	63		
Zootechnicians (including poultry specialists)	120		

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Graduates of the academy are scheduled for employment in various regions of the USSR; 200 of them will be employed in non-chernozem zones. Other regions and the number of graduates who are scheduled for them are: central chernozem zones, 32; Urals, Siberia, and the Far East, 87; and new regions using irrigation, 40. The young specialists will be working in 38 oblasts, 6 krais, 8 autonomous republics, and 10 union republics.(1)

Estonian SSR

Spring field work has been started in the southern and insular regions of the republic. Selective plowing has been undertaken by MTS in Sarema and Khiuma islands and in Antslaskiy, Tyravaskiy, and other southern rayons.(4)

Lithuanian SSR

Field work in the southern regions of the republic had been started by 3 April.(5)

Ukrainian SSR

The prevalence of pleasant, sunny weather, with fields everywhere free of snow, has permitted sovkhozes of the republic to begin spring field work somewhat earlier than in 1952. Large-scale sowing of spring crops is in progress in sovkhozes of Nikolayevskaya, Odesskaya, Zaporozhskaya, and Kirovogradskaya oblasts.

Sovkhozes in Poltavskaya and Stalinskaya oblasts are harrowing winter fallow, while in the remaining oblasts, supplemental fertilization is being applied to winter crops and to perennial grass seeds. Sunflowers, perennial grasses, fodder root crops, and other early crops are also being sown. Sovkhozes of the southern oblasts have started to plant and to repair shelter-belt strips.(6)

By 1 April, grain growers and mechanization specialists of Izmail'skaya Oblast had completed sowing early spiked grain crops and sunflowers. Sowing was performed in 4 working days with a variety of seeds on well prepared soil. Extensive use was made of close-row and crisscross methods of sowing spiked grain crops; all the sunflowers were sown by the check-row method.

Harrowing of areas sown to winter crops is in full swing.(1)

Georgian SSR

Over 170 rural electric power stations, most of which are hydroelectric power stations, have been constructed in the republic under the Soviet regime. They furnish electric current to about 700 kolkhozes and to a great many villages and rayon centers.

Wide-scale construction of additional hydroelectric power stations is in progress. Since the beginning of 1953, five new ones with a total capacity of 900 kilowatts, have been put in operation. The largest of these, Sulorskaya GES, with a capacity of 550 kilowatts, services 22 kolkhozes.

By 1953, 16 new hydroelectric power stations are scheduled for operation. Their total capacity will exceed 6,000 kilowatts. About a thousand kilometers of high- and low-voltage rural electric power line will also be set up, bringing current to more than 100 kolkhozes and scores of villages.(7)

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

RSFSR

Sovkhozes of Ul'yanskaya Oblast have completed fertilizing their fields. Snow retention was carried out on an area considerably greater than in 1952. Trailing implements have been put in order and tractor work is being completed. Sovkhozes have been supplied with seeds for their grain crops; fields have been selected and grain exchanges have been completed.(8)

By 7 April, kolkhozes and MTS of Krymskaya Oblast had completed sowing spiked grain crops and had fulfilled the plan for sowing annual grasses. By the same date, the sowing of sunflowers was nearing completion.

Grain growers of Stavropol'skiy Kray were carrying out field work under variable weather conditions and night frosts. However, by 7 April, 21 rayons in the kray had completed the sowing of early spiked grain crops.

Kolkhozes in the southern regions of Kirovskaya Oblast had started sowing perennial grasses by 7 April.(2)

Kolkhozes of Velikolukskaya Oblast had begun plowing by 8 April; tractor work was scheduled to be increased 40 percent. Using the close-row and criss-cross methods, kolkhozes of the oblast will sow an area twice as large as in 1952.(9)

As a result of warm weather, fields are being rapidly cleared of snow in Altayskiy Kray; sovkhozes, MTS, and kolkhozes are engaged in the work of retaining melted snow and in applying supplemental fertilization to winter crops and perennial grasses. Mineral and local fertilizers are being used.

In the southern steppes of the kray, harrowing of winter fallow and plowing has been started. By 5 April, kolkhozes of Yegor'yevskiy Rayon had harrowed about 10,000 hectares of winter fallow.(10)

Kolkhoz fields in many localities of Vologodskaya Oblast are almost completely free of snow, especially in the southern rayons.

An area almost 20 times greater than in 1952 is scheduled to receive supplemental fertilization in the spring of 1953. Mineral fertilizers will be applied by the use of aircraft.

Grain growers of Chkalovskaya Oblast are engaged in selective field work. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the southwest have applied supplemental fertilization to perennial grasses and winter rye. Snow retention is being practiced in all areas of the oblast.(4)

Supplemental fertilization is being applied to winter crops in many kolkhozes of Kurskaya Oblast.

Rapid clearance of snow from fields of kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Gor'kovskaya Oblast by 6 March permitted the application of fertilizers by aircraft of the Gor'kovskaya Detachment of Agricultural Aviation.(2)

The degree to which kolkhozes and MTS are prepared for spring sowing is being publicly inspected in Novosibirskaya Oblast.

Snow retention operations were carried out on an area of more than 800 hectares during the winter of 1952-53. By 6 April, the work involved in retaining melted snow had been started.(4)

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Kazakh SSR

Wide-scale spring sowing is under way in Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya, Dzhambul'skaya, and Taldy-Kurganskaya oblasti. By 6 April, more than 300,000 hectares of spring grain crops and perennial grasses had been sown.(4)

More than 700 tractors from the Chelyabinskiy, Altayskiy, Khar'kovskiy, Stalingradskiy, and Vladimirovskiy tractor plants were received by kolkhozes of the republic in time for spring field work. During 1953, several thousand tractors and 2,200 tractor-drawn seeders will be obtained by the republic. Twenty new MTS and mechanized animal husbandry stations are being set up in the republic; for the first time, mechanized land improvement stations are also being created in 1953.

Operations connected with laying irrigation systems and forming ponds and reservoirs are expected to remove 28.7 million cubic meters of earth on kolkhozes of the republic in 1953. The excavating machine park will be reinforced by 150 new scrapers, 200 bulldozers, and 120 graders.(11)

Uzbek

The spring of 1953 made an early appearance in the republic; alfalfa and wheat planted in February are sprouting as of 2 April. By the end of March, warm weather had set in, permitting the sowing of cotton.(6)

Extensive hydroelectric, irrigation, and land improvement projects are underway in Bukharskaya Oblast. New hydroelectric construction will provide kolkhozes of Karakul'skiy Rayon with an additional 25,000 hectares of irrigated land for the cultivation of cotton, vineyards, and gardens.(12)

Kirgiz SSR

Kolkhozes in the southern regions of the republic had started spring field work in the beginning of March, but almost a month later they were working at an extremely slow tempo.

MTS permit wide disparity between plowing and sowing. In the republic, 87,000 hectares of winter fallow were plowed since fall; an area of about 50,000 hectares was plowed in the spring. However, a total of only 27,000 hectares was sown by MTS.

The disparity between plowing and sowing leads to a considerable loss of moisture in the soil, especially on unirrigated lands; while on irrigated lands, rains cause portions of the soil to float off, thereby lowering the horizon of plowed land.

Some tractors have not yet been repaired and hundreds of them are unequipped with lights for night work, while a great many remain with serious defects after being released as repaired.

The productivity of the machine-tractor park is very low. In MTS of Frunzenskaya Oblast, the average output of a conventional tractor during a work shift varied from 1.5 to 3.5 hectares.(13)

The plan for reconstructing intra-farm irrigation and enlarging irrigated areas, which kolkhoz and MTS workers of the republic had completed ahead of schedule in 1950 and 1951, was subsequently delayed, so that in 1952 the transfer to the new system was only 61 percent of plan. Bad management by a number of agricultural and water-resource agencies was the principal reason for the delay.

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

As of 31 March, 99 kolkhozes of the republic had not yet drawn up plans for the reorganized irrigation system. Only 5.8 percent of the plan was realized for providing expanded areas with hydrotechnical installations 6 percent of the plan for transplanting mulberry trees, and less than one percent of the plan for paving irrigation canals with cobblestones. Specialists and supervisors of kolkhoz production pay little attention to mastering the new system of irrigation. Problems remaining unsettled in practice are the following: tractor work, the combining of irrigation with mechanized and manual cultivation of the soil, and the organization of field brigades.

Though there are about 7,000 expanded irrigation areas in the republic, not even 10 percent of them could have been considered properly irrigated and cultivated in 1952. At times, even the most elementary requirements of the new system are unfulfilled.

More than 300 million cubic meters of irrigation water was wasted in 1952. The blame for this unproductive waste of natural resources may be placed, to a great extent, on specialists who are still unable to master the correct principles of the new system.

Cotton growers, managing as well as they can, are themselves occupied with organizing the irrigation system in many kolkhozes of the republic. Agronomists and hydrotechnicians, on the other hand, are ineffective in directing and developing the new irrigation system.(14)

Tadzhik SSR

Following prolonged rains in Gissar Valley, the appearance of sunny days permitted kolkhozes of several regions to sow cotton.(5)

Kolkhozes of the republic are scheduled to plant 15,000 lemon, tangerine, and orange seedlings in the spring of 1953.(2)

SOURCES

1. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 2 Apr 53
2. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 8 Apr 53
3. Pravda, 8 Apr 53
4. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 7 Apr 53
5. Ibid., 4 Apr 53
6. Ibid., 3 Apr 53
7. Ibid., 9 Apr 53
8. Sovkhoznyaya Gazeta, 2 Apr 53
9. Pravda, 9 Apr 53
10. Ibid., 6 Apr 53
11. Ibid., 4 Apr 53
12. Izvestiya, 2 Apr 53
13. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 5 Apr 53
14. Sovetskoye Khlopkovodstvo, 1 Apr 53

- E N D -

- 6 -

CONFIDENTIAL